

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) Emulsifier-free microgel dispersed in the aqueous phase obtainable by
 - a) producing a polyacrylate (A) in the presence of at last one compound (B) exhibiting a phosphonic acid group, the polyacrylate (A) exhibiting at least one hydroxyl group and at least one carboxyl group;
 - b) crosslinking, in the aqueous phase, of the reaction mixture originating from step a) with an aminoplast resin (C);characterised in that the reaction mixture originating from step b) is not subjected to any subsequent emulsion polymerisation.
2. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to claim 1 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the polyacrylate (A) resulting from step a) is subjected, before step b), to an emulsion polymerisation with at least one monomer compound (D) which contains at least one free radical polymerisable double bond.
3. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to claim 1 ~~or 2 characterised in that~~ wherein the polyacrylate (A) is obtainable by the polymerisation
 - of a monomer (i) with at least one polymerisable double bond and at least one hydroxyl group;
 - of a monomer (ii) with at least one polymerisable double bond and at least one carboxyl group; and
 - of a monomer (iii) without hydroxyl group and without carboxyl group with at least one polymerisable double bond.

4. (Currently Amended) Microgel according ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ to claim 1 wherein compound (B) is an adduct of an alkyl phosphonic acid with a compound containing epoxy groups.

5. (Original) Emulsifier-free microgel dispersed in the aqueous phase obtainable by
a) aproducing a polyacrylate (E) by the copolymerisation
of a monomer (i) with at least one polymerisable double bond and at least one hydroxyl group;
of a monomer (ii) with at least one polymerisable double bond and at least one carboxyl group; and
of a monomer (iv) with at least one polymerisable double bond and at least one phosphonic acid group;
b) crosslinking, in the aqueous phase, of the reaction mixture originating from step a) with an aminoplast resin (C);
characterised in that the reaction mixture originating from step b) is not subjected to any subsequent emulsion polymerisation.

6. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to claim 5 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the polyacrylate (E) resulting from step a) is subjected, before step b), to an emulsion polymerisation with at least one monomer compound (D) which contains at least one free radical polymerisable double bond.

7. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to claim 5 ~~or 6 characterised in that~~ wherein the copolymerisation is carried out in the presence of an additional monomer (iii) without hydroxyl group and without carboxyl group, which monomer exhibits at least one polymerisable double bond.

8. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to ~~one of claims 3 to 7 characterised in that~~ claim 3 wherein the monomer (i) is selected from the group of hydroxyethyl(meth)acrylate, hydroxypropyl(meth)acrylate, hydroxybutyl(meth)acrylate and caprolactone esterified on the basis of hydroxy(meth)acrylate.

9. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to ~~one of claims 3 to 8 characterised in that~~ claim 3 wherein the monomer (ii) is selected from the group of acrylic acid and methacrylic acid.

10. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to ~~one of claims 3 to 9 characterised in that~~ claim 3 wherein the monomer (iii) is selected from the group of acrylic (meth)acrylic acid esters free from hydroxyl groups, and styrene.

11. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to ~~one of claims 5 to 10 characterised in that~~ claim 5 wherein the monomer (iv) is vinyl phosphonic acid.

12. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to ~~one of the preceding claims characterised in that~~ claim 1 wherein the aminoplast resin[[in]] is a melamine resin.

13. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to ~~one of claims 2 to 4 or 6 to 12~~ claim 2 characterised in that wherein at least one monomer compound (D) contains no hydroxyl groups.

14. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to claim 13 ~~characterised in that~~ wherein, additionally, at least one monomer compound (D) exhibits at least one hydroxyl group.

15. (Currently Amended) Microgel according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 characterised in that wherein it exhibits an acid number between 10 and 45 mg KOH/g.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[[Use of]]-an emulsifier-free microgel dispersion according to one of the preceding claims~~ A method for the production of a multilayer coating, in particular in the motor vehicle industry, comprising applying a dispersion containing an emulsifier-free microgel of claim 1 on a surface of a substrate to obtain a coating.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[Use]]~~ A method according to claim 16 for the production of wherein the multilayer coating is a base coat.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Use according to claim 16 or 17 characterised in that~~ A method according to claim 16, wherein the proportion of microgel, based on the solids of the layer obtainable therefrom is between 20 wt% and 85 wt%, of a solid content of the coating preferably between 20 and 65%.

19. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the microgel is between 20 wt% and 65 wt% of a solid content of the coating.

20. (New) Microgel according to claim 2 wherein the polyacrylate (A) is obtainable by the polymerisation

of a monomer (i) with at least one polymerisable double bond and at least one hydroxyl group;

of a monomer (ii) with at least one polymerisable double bond and at least one carboxyl group; and

of a monomer (iii) without hydroxyl group and without carboxyl group with at least one polymerisable double bond.